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SOURCE Hodong Shinmun.PRODUCTION QUOTA FOR FIRST QUARTER 1949 SET

A Cabinet meeting of the North Korea's People's Government was held on 16 December 1948 to discuss various problems pertaining to the 1949-1950 two-year economic program for North Korea. The most important decision made at this meeting was the establishment of production quotas for the first quarter of 1949 as the beginning of the two-year economic program. It was decided to adopt 1948 production figures as a standard upon which to base the new production quotas. The Cabinet's decisions on the new production quotas follow:

Industry

Government-managed industries must increase their production, during the first quarter of 1949, by 57.4 percent over the same period of 1948. Workers' productivity must be increased by 35 to 50 percent over the same period of 1948, but the cost of production must be reduced by 3 to 10 percent, compared with the same period of 1948.

Light Metal Industry

Government-managed light metal industries' quota for the first quarter of 1949 shall be 71.7 percent over the same period of 1948. The combined production of all local plants must be increased by 543 percent plus over the Government plants' quota. The privately managed light metal industries must increase their production 141 percent over that of the Government plants.

Agriculture

With regard to agricultural production, it has been decided that the Government shall render all possible assistance to the farmers during the spring sowing season by obtaining the best seeds for the farmers, purchasing and repairing farming tools, supplying the farmers with sufficient amount of fertilizer, and by distributing among the farmers more useful agricultural information. In addition, all irrigation projects shall be pushed vigorously.

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Lumber Industry

During the first quarter of 1948, production of special lumber shall be increased by 195.3 percent over the same period of 1948, and log production must be increased to 69.8 percent over the same period of 1948.

Marine Industry

The fish catch must be increased by 23.3 percent over the first quarter of 1948, and canning is to be increased 17 percent over the same period of 1948.

Miscellaneous

In transportation, railroad transportation shall be increased by 52.4 percent over the first quarter of 1948. Commodity circulation shall be increased 54.4 percent by the Government-managed stores and 68 percent by cooperative stores over the same period of 1948. The only serious problem, as viewed by the Cabinet, is the problem of training sufficient number of technicians in a short time.

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